INTERVIEW OF SANDY AND PADDY LYNCH

INTERVIEWEES	Sandy and Paddy Lynch
DATE	November 12, 2018
INTERVIEWERS	Tom Milroy and Linda Macfarlane
TRANSCRIBER	Brandon Widner
LOCATION	Home of Sandy and Paddy Lynch

Tom Milroy: Okay, so here we are with Sandy and Paddy Lynch. We're sitting, looking out the window at a beautiful view on a rainy day. We're going to talk about three things. We're going to talk about the land around where Sandy and Paddy live, and who owns that land and who has owned it in the past. And then we're going to talk about the family and there are a whole lot of documents which Paddy and Sandy are going to sort out and send the ones are most relevant. It's really great that we've got all these documents, particularly facts and stories told by Sandy's…

Sandy Lynch: Great Aunt.

TM: Great Aunt, the sister of his grandfather. So, Sandy tell us a little about the land that we're looking out on.

SL: Well' all this land was my grandfather's farm. It stretches from Wilson Road to Hollywood Road.

TM: The whole way.

SL: The whole way. Back up a generation up the road is Betty Cameron's house, where the barn burned, up here where the horses were. That was Grandmother's, Great Granny. My Great-Great Grandmother Toms family lived there. They gave this lower part of the valley to George Washington Lynch, who was my great-grandfather for a wedding present. They had four children, so this parcel got divided down here four ways. Two brothers kept the property on the other side of the highway, and on this side of the highway was my grandfather and his sister. He bought his sister's land, so they had about 170 acres in here.

Dad, then, has got five brothers and sisters. So, this land got busted up six ways then. Between six children. We got about 23 acres in here. Paddy and I bought 5 acres from Dad. This land has been in the family for what, three or four generation, three anyway?

Paddy Lynch: I thought you said it was closer to four.

SL: Well, if you count, start counting down.

TM: Yeah. So, you're able to give us the plat, you said, showing the divisions of the land? Or even afterwards.

SL: Before me, maybe before. Yeah.

TM: Great. So which houses are now on who's land?

SL: The only house that was in here was Will and Susie's house down here.

TM: That's Will and Susie Hamilton.

SL: My grandfather's house. They built that about 1936, sometime about then. Across the highway over there is the grandmother's house. It's Roy Ramsey's house now. And up the valley is the old Toms home. It's Betty Cameron's house now. So Cameron's across the road near to here.

TM: When and how, taking those one by one, when and how, for example you said Will Hamilton and Susie, who was Susie Clarke, when did that transaction happen?

SL: I don't know when they exactly got, somewhere in there. They got married in 1870-something, seventy-five. About 1875, I'd say. And the house was built down here about 1935 or 1936, sometime. My grandfather grew up in Asheville, he was a surgeon there in Asheville. He used to keep animals out here and he would come out to the farm to take care of the animals every day. Gathered up his kids and bring them out here and they would spend the summers out here with my Grandmother. They had a good time as kids growing up. Running all over the farm.

TM: Was it at that time there was a garden down there?

SL: Oh yeah, a big garden. He kept a big garden. I guess, I don't know what crop they grew. They must've grown corn for the animals, and grains of some sort. Must've been wheat or hay or something. Must've been wheat, because dad talked about a threshing machine coming around once in a while.

TM: Thanks a lot for telling us about the land and the divisions of the land. So, let's try and sort of go one by one through, maybe starting from the present and working backwards. Telling us a little bit about yourself, and a little bit about your dad, and working backwards. Your brother also lives on this.

SL: Yeah, well I spent my time, my career, out in Hendersonville at Kanuga Conferences. And we moved out here about eight years ago. So, we've been here about eight years. My dad, he was ninety-nine, lived with us about the last six or eight months of his life. I had a great time with him. My brother Bill lives back here behind us with his mother-in-law down here. That's his mother-in-law's house, that little house right across the creek.

PL: The grey house. Then his daughter lives in the tiny house next to it.

TM: Okay, so down on the bottom of your driveway, is the little building which is your brother's…

SL: It's my brother's wife's mother.

PL: His brother's got the observatory down there too.

SL: Oh yeah.

TM: So, what is it? You go ahead Sandy.

SL: Go ahead, ask away.

TM: No, you just described those, what's down there.

SL: There's three houses in there. And here, three. One is my brother's observatory, which is a telescope and stuff. One is my niece's little tiny house. Then the mother-in-law house. The sixth house.

TM: Oh okay, the one was just built, that will be your niece's house?

SL: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Okay, great.

SL: And then, well, dad didn't have any… we bought dad's house, because he lived here from about 1970 until now. Well, he died in 2015?

TM: Where was he from originally?

SL: Asheville, here. Asheville.

TM: So, somebody had mentioned Rutherfordton?

SL: Back, if you go back, one, two.

TM: Oh wow.

SL: At least two generations, maybe three generations.

TM: Okay, I'm jumping too far back, you go ahead and tell us a bit more about your dad then.

SL: Dad grew up in Asheville really, in Asheville. He went to State Colleges, Carolina and State both. They were six, he had five brothers and sisters. Three sisters and three brothers, two brothers and three sisters, yeah. They all grew up in Asheville on Saint Dunstan's Circle.

His father, dad's dad, built a house out here in about 1935. He died, when? About 19… had to have been about 1960-something when he died. But his father died real early while he was still in school in Baltimore. He went to Johns Hopkins University up there. His father lived across the street, across the road, in a house that, actually it burned in 1914 after he died. Dad's mother and brother ran the farm over there for years. His father –

PL: Is this…? Dandy?

SL: That's Dandy.

PL: This is Ridgeway's father.

TM: Great, okay. Good, let's include that.

( )

SL: Better than I've got.

TM: Just to go back to your Dad, who were the ladies in the lives of your dad and your grandfather?

PL: Talk about your Momma! She's a pretty important person.

SL: Mary Plummer. Her dad was the Mayor of Asheville at one time.

TM: Also called Plummer?

SL: Yeah, P-L-U-M-M-E-R.

PL: Harry.

SL: Harry Plummer. So, Dad married an Asheville girl. She was from Asheville. I don't know where Rob… Jim Parker was from Asheville. He was a married…

PL: Well, he doesn't have anything to with this, does he?

TM: That was your mother you were describing just now.

SL: Yeah, Mary Plummer.

TM: Then going back to your granddad, who's picture we just saw, what about his family?

SL: They are the ones that were George Washington, his mother and daddy lived across the road out here.

TM: Oh, that was his—

SL: House. Yeah, George Washington Lynch and Minerva.

PL: Elmira. [note for clarity: Elmira Minerva Toms Lynch]

SL: Elmira, yeah, Toms.

PL: That was called the Oaks.

SL: But it burned in 19, something, about 13.

PL: Burned about 1909-1910. There is a photograph from 1908.

TM: So, the document that I'm holding in my hand now, which is called "Facts and Stories Told to Me by My Mother." That starts off by saying, "Our great-grandfather William Toms was born in 1764. And was a native of London, England."

SL: Oh god, see that gives it back past where I got any interest in.

[laughter]

TM: This is, we can hand over this document to the library.

SL: Far as I can say. As far as I'm concerned.

TM: So how far, are you able to go back a bit further than your grandfather?

SL: Grandfather, great-grandfather, great-grandparents, and down in Rutherfordton is where dad's, let's see wait it'd be his great grandfather came, great-great grandfather came from down in Rutherford County. You know Rutherford—

TM: Rothfton.

[laughter]

SL: Oh well, yeah. It was as far west as people went until they got over the mountains.

TM: Yes, yes.

SL: It used to be the, and I've been down to the family graves down in Rutherfordton, of his parents.

TM: You don't happen, do you happen to recall which church?

SL: Green Hill Baptist Church. One of them.

TM: Great, wow. Sandy you're doing great.

PL: Wait are you looking for Elias Lynch? Okay, here is some of the, it doesn't, it says Rutherford County. Off Clarke Road, Rutherford County, North Carolina.

SL: Clarke, that's that little cemetery down there. All the stones are broken over.

TM: Oh wow, and what about your dad, and your mom? Were there particular churches that went to and were buried in?

SL: Well, All Souls. Dad was a preacher down there.

PL: Tell them who's signed his baptismal.

SL: Mrs. Vanderbilt signed Dad's baptismal certificate. Oh yeah, she was pretty special.

PL: You also need to talk about Dandy delivering George and Bill.

TM: Oh, yeah because he was a doctor he must have had some…

SL: The doctor of the Biltmore Estate kind of, with their age difference there, he turned his practice over to dad's father at some point. Doctor, I forget the guy's name now. It wasn't… I can't –

TM: So, this was the Vanderbilt family doctor, who retired.

SL: Yeah, he turned his practice over to Dr. Lynch.

TM: To Dr. Lynch, and where was Dr. Lynch practicing from?

SL: Right below the hospital now, on Saint Dunstan's Road.

TM: Okay, yeah.

SL: That's where they lived, but I guess he practiced out of what became Mission Hospital. It used to be, the way the medical community grew up in Asheville was a whole convoluted thing. If you follow Irby Stephens book, it's a good history of all that.

TM: Saint Josephs, what was Saint Josephs, what was Mission, which doctors went with which one, and all that.

SL: They moved all around.

TM: Shall we pause for a while?

Okay Sandy, we'll move to some stories, family stories that you've heard over the years. One that Paddy just mentioned was your grandfather, the physician. Could you tell us that story?

SL: He operated on an old orderly, that was a black guy that they would not have as a patient in the hospital. He had to hide him for about three days during recovery at the hospital. Finally, he survived it and did fine after he was hidden for three days, or four. Had to put a sheet up in the hallway to keep people from knowing he was in the hospital.

TM: Oh, so he was hiding them within, he didn't take them out of the hospital. He hid him in the hospital.

SL: Had to hide him in the hospital. Because he was black, they couldn't have a black patient in the hospital. He was very instrumental in starting Biltmore Hospital down where the credit union is now.

TM: Where the State Employee, no not the State Employee's.

PL: In Biltmore.

SL: Yeah, yeah. Where the State Employee's. They just lived over the hill. Back when he started that, he was scared of heights so he wouldn't build over three floors high. One, two, three.

TM: Oh, that's a big change in Asheville.

PL: Oh, isn't it though?

SL: Yeah, over the years, it's changed a lot. He—

TM: The, go ahead.

SL: No, I can't recall his name…

TM: Well, if you do just jot it down on a piece of paper and we can add it in. I'd also like to hear the story, as we came in, we stopped and looked at the concrete. I think it's called, "Entwined."

SL: Entwined, that's right.

TM: Can you tell us the story, what skills your dad had, and the story of that?

SL: Dad was a mechanical engineer, and he designed "Entwined," the statue out here. A statue out here in the yard. It represents his love for mother, because one is bigger than the other one tentacle which is taller than the other one.

TM: This is a beautiful statue, sculpture standing outside Bel-Air Farm.

SL: It was ninety, something '95, he built that. It was concrete and steel. About seven feet tall.

TM: Do you have a picture of that location? Should we take a picture and give to them?

PL: Linda, there is in this box, if you can let me access it, there are several photographs, I believe, of the process.

SL: Let Paddy drag the box over.

PL: Let me just get this out of your way.

TM: Should we put this on pause while we're doing that?

It's on pause?

SL: Is that the plat?

TM: We'll include photos along with the plat showing the land division.

Now what about, you were telling some other stories, family stories. You had started on another one while we were on pause.

SL: I don't know, what was I talking about?

[laughter]

TM: Sorry, my memory is as bad as yours. Do you remember Linda?

PL: Oh, Cornelia.

SL: Let Paddy tell it.

PL: Well, apparently, Dr. Lynch, after he became the Vanderbilts' physician, discerned that Cornelia was in trouble. He performed an emergency appendectomy on her which essentially saved her life.

TM: Oh okay, let's do that then.

Okay, ready? So then, going back to Doctor Lynch, are there any particular stories?

SL: No, we didn't get many.

PL: What kind of man was he?

SL: Gruff old man, he was not warm and cuddly. He was kind of gruff, we cut him a wide berth.

[laughter]

TM: Oh, you did? So, you remember him well?

SL: Well, I was twelve then, eleven or twelve.

TM: So, he treated the Vanderbilts. Can you tell us, because it wasn't recording when Paddy…

SL: He saved Cornelia Vanderbilt by taking her appendix out. Performing an emergency appendectomy sometime, I don't know when that was. She was a young girl, she was eleven or twelve years old, just a young child at the time.

TM: We saw when we first came in, a photograph of Dr. Hamilton's house with a very well-tended garden. When was that photograph taken?

SL: That had to have been after '37, or '38. Why are you having such a time over there?

PL: Because I'm trying to find "Entwined!"

TM: So, '37, '38, who owned it?

SL: That was Dr. Lynch. He lived down there 'til they split the whole farm up in the late Sixties, I guess.

TM: Who was the gardener of that?

SL: Well, it had to be my grandfather, and help. He had help doing it. He raised Hereford Cattle, that's what his big deal was.

TM: Oh, even then? Wow.

SL: Yeah, pigs and cows. He had pigs, cows, apples. He had quite an apple orchard.

TM: Just to connect some dots here, Annie Louise Hamilton, Dr. Hamilton's daughter, also raises Hereford Cattle now. Aren't they hers? These ones out here?

SL: Yeah.

TM: So that fits in with your family history.

SL: Must do.

TM: Any other family stories come to mind?

SL: They didn't tell us, we didn't get many stories. I don't think.

PL: Hmm, about your grandfather? There's lots about you and your brothers.

TM: Oh! Let's go there.

SL: You can tell them, I don't know what you're talking about.

[laughter]

TM: Sandy, we've talked about the big Asheville connection.

SL: Big Asheville, we're old Asheville people.

TM: And we've talked about the Rutherfordton, Rutherford County connection. We see in the "Facts and Stories Told to Me by my Mother," document, a connection right back to the UK. You haven't talked at all about the connection with Virginia.

SL: Don't know much about that. I can go back to Rutherfordton as the most far I can go.

TM: Oh okay, so the picture you showed us Paddy…

SL: Oh, that's my aunt. My grandmother from Big Stone Gap.

TM: That's Virginia, isn't it?

SL: And, yeah.

TM: Which part of Virginia is that? Must be in the mountains if it's a gap.

SL: Southwest, southwestern. I don't know much about; I hadn't read this document. I just hadn't been interested in that side of it.

TM: But that is another direction in the family tree that can go way back out in all directions.

SL: You can get lost in that.

Linda Macfarlane: It's your grandmother, right? Okay, I'll put this down.

SL: Yes. They moved from Duffield.

TM: Of all these people, are you still in contact with any relatives from way back? Like as far back as that there?

SL: No. There's a guy that did a bunch of research, family research. I can't remember his name either. But that…

PL: Eugene.

SL: Lynch tree. No, it was somebody like Rory or Lexon or somebody Lynch. Doesn't matter.

TM: So, there may be another document.

SL: There's the stuff right there, you can just go wild.

PL: You did encounter a relative on your mother's side.

SL: That was Mother's side. Lord they… Well, that's just chasing rabbits.

TM: Talking about rabbits, what about the use of the land now?

SL: Well, since there were six of them, six kids, and I was one of them, it got divided six ways.

TM: What were your sixths, and how many boys and how many girls?

SL: Three boys and three girls. Will Hamilton down here, Dr. Hamilton at the end, has gotten, he's bought three of the tracts of land. Me and my brother own this tract, and my cousin Pops…

[laughter]

There goes the confusion. Her name is Popsie Lynch.

TM: But she's not a Lynch!

PL: A different tribe of Lynches!

SL: Different tribe. She's a, where's Don from? Connecticut?

PL: Connecticut.

TM: So, this is Popsie who lives right between you and Dr. Hamilton.

PL: Yes.

TM: She's called Popsie Lynch, but she's not actually from a Lynch family that you know is related to you.

SL: That's right.

PL: Yes, she is. She is your first cousin, but she also married another Lynch.

TM: Oh okay, I see.

PL: Yes, we're related!

TM: Oh, we better clarify that, can you clarify those relationships because I've got it wrong?

SL: Popsie is my first cousin. Her mother was Dad's sister. Yeah, Mary Payton. Their last name was Rogers, her whole growing up.

TM: And then she married a Lynch?

SL: She married a Lynch.

PL: From Connecticut.

TM: And became a Lynch again.

SL: Yeah, that was not us.

TM: And then you were also describing your other siblings.

SL: I got one brother here, Bill Lynch. Y'all talked to him. And then a brother in Seattle, Washington.

TM: And your brother Bill is the one who owns the vineyard and the astronomy, what do you call it?

SL: Observatory, yeah, right. And brother Tom is out, he's a set designer in a theater. Out in Seattle.

TM: Okay, let's now go to any connections that you know about on the land that I'm not sure whether you know Will Hamilton mentioned, but when we interviewed we didn't get anywhere near covering that trail that goes across the back.

SL: The old buffalo trail?

TM: What is that?

SL: There's a buffalo run. Old buffalo. It's a big stout section of land that goes all the way through here, through the property. They figured it was an old buffalo run from old times. Where the buffalo used to travel back and forth.

TM: That was the buffalo choosing to do that? They weren't chased by anybody?

SL: No, just natural path.

TM: Do you happen to know where it, I know it goes in the woods back there—

SL: Right under Popsie's house, over here next door. It used to be, you can still find pieces of it, but you'd have to go back in the woods back behind Popsie's house to find it. Yep, the buffalo trail.

TM: Then is there anything else on the land, or of the land that used to be in the Lynch family?

SL: There's a slave rig graveyard over here that has about fifty graves in it, I think.

TM: We're looking southwards, from Sandy and Paddy's house.

PL: South-east. Because that's east.

SL: Whatever. But there's about—

TM: Oh, is it? So that's west?

PL: No, west is that way!

TM: Oh okay! So we're looking eastwards.

[laughter]

I see, southeast. Need to roll me around. Towards that gravestone, is it hidden in the woods or where is it?

SL: Yes, in the woods up there. Up in the woods.

TM: Now, out on the street there, there is a sign which makes it sound like it's not a slave graveyard, but something else.

SL: Ashworth Family Graveyard, it says. But there's only girl that's marked up there with a headstone. Sarah Casey. She wasn't Ashworth. I don't know, I'm sure those were out of the colored community out here.

TM: Out of the Gullah Community?

SL: Colored community.

TM: Oh, colored community, I thought you said Gullah.

SL: There's about fifty graves up there.

TM: What do you think they were doing?

SL: I don't know if they were workers, they had to work the bottom land they had down here, not the mountainside. The only houses that were out here used to be the Sherrill's Inn, 1839 or so. Sherrill's Inn, Betty Cameron's house, and the two Lynch houses. That was about it.

TM: What about the, is it possible they could have dug out the ditch, 'cause somebody's dug out the ditch or was it, who would've done that?

SL: The creek used to be over against the hill, over across the way. It was moved. The highway was moved as well.

TM: Wow, so who, did they dig the new creek, the new bed of the creek, did they dig that out when they moved the highway? And moved the creek at the same time?

SL: Ah, they probably did.

TM: So, the highway used to go near—

SL: Over on the hill. I think the kids all of them, all six kids, would sit up on the hill and watch for cars. Didn't you ever do that? That was the biggest thing if there was a car come by.

TM: Huh, and when was that named "Flying Cloud Farm?"

SL: Flying Cloud did the old stagecoach run between here and Rutherfordton. It was called the Flying Cloud Stagecoach.

TM: Was that your family who named that?

SL: No, that was years, no.

TM: Recently?

SL: No, that was way back.

TM: Oh, it's been called Flying Cloud from before? From the time of the stagecoach.

SL: Yeah, it was the Flying Cloud Stagecoach. It had to be back in those days, the early 1800s, late 1700s.

TM: And they would have stopped at Sherrill's Inn and stopped down here?

SL: It may have come across the mountain the whole way. I'm not sure. I think that road was hand dug all the way out the mountain and over and down.

TM: Really?

PL: Imagine… how else would they have done it?

TM: They didn't have Caterpillars.

SL: Well, the two ways to get east from here, was to go down Old Drover's Road or over to Tennessee. It's why they named that the "Drover's Road." And then there's another one that went down towards Charleston, it was the Howard Gap Road down there. That was kind of the same thing.

PL: The Buncombe Turnpike too. That went through Henderson County.

SL: Well, yeah let's get (?) [31:26]

[laughter]

TM: Anything else about your land or your family, or other people that you think they should be interviewing?

SL: You know, y'all should talk to Popsie over here, Popsie Lynch. She's got a lot of information.

TM: So that's Popsie Lynch?

SL: Yeah, she's got a lot of information.

PL: She's better organized than we are!

[laughter]

TM: Well, you seem very well organized.

SL: We just kind of throw it in a bag and go with it. That's an interesting document right there that you've got.

TM: I think once the library gets ahold of this document, they might have some more questions coming out because it's fifteen pages, pretty long. It includes somebody here, it starts off, "I am a candidate for office of County Commissioner."

SL: That was Dad's grandfather.

TM: Ah, so this was George's.

SL: George Washington Lynch, yeah. George W. Lynch. He died at age forty-nine or something early.

TM: He what?

SL: He died before he got the election run.

TM: Oh wow.

SL: At age forty-nine, or something.

TM: This was probably one of the last things he did. Which is the whole speech, all written out in handwritten writing, with no mistakes in it.

[laughter]

That's amazing. That's number four of all the attachments here. Shall we stop for the moment?

SL: Yeah, that's fine.

TM: Okay, Sandy, we would love to hear about your childhood and your siblings' childhoods, and how they related to each other.

SL: Well, we all grew up North Asheville out on Beaver Lake and had a good growing up. Dad worked for American Enka, as an engineer. We had normal, just a normal growing up

childhood. It was a good childhood. North Asheville was a good place to grow up. My grandmother out here in Fairview would take us on a few at a time, she would never take us all at one time. I've got, I'm the oldest—

TM: So how were you travelling, what were you travelling in when you came out here?

SL: Old Station Wagon. A '41 Chevrolet, to start with, a '50 Road Wagon. I got, I'm the oldest of three. Got two brothers, one works for and retired from Biltmore. One works for the University of Washington out in Seattle, Washington. He's a set designer. Yeah, I had a normal growing up.

TM: You told me once he designed the sets for a big, what was it? Broadway production?

SL: Yeah, he's done several Broadway shows. Tom has.

PL: Heidi Chronicles, that won a Tony.

SL: Ten Types, okay anyway, he's done some good stuff. His last big thing has been Wagner's Opera to the Ring Series of Operas. He's getting up close to retirement now. He's been teaching now at the University of Washington.

I spent my career out in Hendersonville, at the Kanuga Conference Center out there at the Episcopal Conference Center. I had a good run at that.

PL: Tell them what you called yourself, you were in charge of?

SL: Heavy, Wet, and Broken. If it was heavy, or if it was wet, or if it was broken, it was my problem.

[Laughter]

PL: Or alive!

SL: But anyway, so here we are. Paddy and I, she's been great help. She taught for years, a schoolteacher.

PL: But this isn't about me.

SL: We got, she had two kids and I had two kids. We got eleven, nine grandkids. From age thirteen down to four.

TM: When you were talking about the land, you didn't mention the shed behind here which—

SL: That's Bill's Barn. Oh, I had a bunch of Model T one things, in my last years I was collecting old cars. I had seven Model T Fords. Sold all, they're all gone. Sold them to a friend. Paddy and I had a good time with the old cars.

TM: Where did you go in those Model T's?

SL: Well, everywhere from Pennsylvania to Natchez, Mississippi. All over the East Coast and the South. Used to drive them back in the day, some drive them now. But we had a good time with them. I don't know.

( )

PL: Which was why it was so good for us to be able to purchase this house, because our housing was provided at Kanuga. I said, "When we retire, you know, I like to camp but I don't want to live in a tent for the rest of my life." It worked out well.

Tom still has a couple acres in the back. Bill and Kitty have their property and then they own most, well they own all the vineyard, and the property in front of our five acres. Their son Nathan—

TM: Oh, we didn't mention the rabbits.

PL: Oh, yes. Kitty raises rabbits.

TM: You were talking about your siblings awhile ago, and they live on this land, two of them. Three of them.

PL: Just one, one of his brothers.

SL: Just one of my brothers.

TM: That's Bill.

SL: And his two kids. His wife has raised the rabbits all these years.

TM: That's Bill's wife who—

SL: Yeah, that's Bill's wife that's done that. That's her thing, is the rabbits. Bill raised the corn, grapes, and that's his thing down here.

PL: And hot sauce. He loves making hot sauce.

TM: Oh really? Wow. He makes the delicious grape juice most years, there wasn't any this year.

SL: No grapes, frozen a couple years ago.

PL: Well, that, and the deer got them this year.

TM: Yeah, that must've because last year there was, we had the grape juice.

PL: Somehow the deer found the vineyard this year and ate everything.

SL: Ate all his grapes.

TM: What about her and her rabbits, what does she do?

SL: She'd been showing rabbits and they—

PL: She was also judging rabbits, I mean she really…

SL: But her rabbits back here, she showed and ate a few along the way. They raised meat rabbits, and show rabbits. Even raised both kinds.

TM: What were the two kinds?

SL: Meat, meat. For rabbit meat, and then show rabbits for show.

PL: I think she specialized in a certain kind of rabbits, Harlequins. That have two different colors, like a black side and, say, a reddish side.

TM: Oh, we're not picking it up?

PL: That rabbit I think won either best in breed, or best in show. You'll have to talk to her, but she's done remarkably well. She's really made quite a name for herself in the rabbit raising community.

SL: Well, anyways, that's interesting. It's kind of fun to be able to see your grandfather's house, and your great-grandmother's house, and your great-great-grandmother's house all from your house. So that goes back, and it is fun.

TM: Very unique thing.

SL: Not very many people can do that.

( )

SL: Not many developments, there's no railroad out here. That's kept the development away.

PL: And the conservancy, everything on our side of the road between Hollywood and Wilson Road, is in conservancy.

TM: Okay, let's talk about that.

PL: Nothing can change.

( )

LM: Tell us about that.

TM: We're talking a little bit more about the land, and how part of the land is conserved. Can you tell us how that came about, and who the impetus was for that?

SL: I think the Hamiltons.

PL: I think William Hamilton, and Mike Green were responsible.

SL: The Hamiltons, Popsie, and Bill, my brother, have all put their land in conservancy. They kind of tag teamed together. And Will Hamilton was instrumental in doing that, young Will.

TM: William, William Hamilton. When he was working for the Southern Highlands Appalachian Conservancy. Or Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

PL: I know that one's a hard one.

SL: Whatever it is, SAHC. They were able to get all that, and they got all the deals done. All this side of the road's up in permanent conservancy.

TM: That means that Walmart could not buy an easement and build a Walmart down here.

PL: No development, yep.

SL: We won't get a Walmart, too bad.

TM: This helps to explain why, even though further down US-74, there's a lot of development happening. People moving earth and everything, in this part of Fairview, the conservation easements have meant that will not happen.

SL: All the parks, they've put a lot of theirs in conservancy.

TM: Going up towards Sherrill's Inn. Conservation easement.

SL: That'll stop that.

TM: What do you remember of Fairview, where Food Lion is now, that area from before?

SL: Being all dark, I think. That's the biggest thing. That used to be kind of this lonely highway between here and Charlotte.

TM: Used to be what?

SL: Lonely highway. It was so quiet, it was dark out here. It was scary as a little kid coming out here. It was dark.

TM: Coming out from, because you were coming from Asheville. Wow.

SL: Yeah, you come, it's eight miles out here.

TM: This was a big adventure for you in those days, what was Mine Hole Gap like?

SL: Steep and dark. That's about the fourth road that comes out of the gap now. Dad, at a hundred years old, watched it move up the mountain, becoming less of a road, less of a hill.

PL: It was way steeper years ago, Mine Hole Gap.

TM: When you say four roads, tell about each of those roads.

SL: I think one was down at the bottom, they've moved it up to the shoulder of the mountain and ever since.

TM: Then they cut through at the top then.

SL: This last was five lanes, where it used to be just a two-lane road out here.

TM: Your feeling was, you were going out to a scary place.

[Laughter]

SL: Yeah, and dark!

TM: Fairview was rarely mentioned when people would talk about Asheville, they would talk about Marshall and Fletcher and everything, but not Fairview.

SL: Not here.

TM: You think that's because of the railways? The lack of railways?

SL: That's one reason it's not been developed. Just one reason. They didn't have water out here till just a few years ago. No sewer.

TM: Oh yeah, tell us, and then I think it was you who told me something, we were walking along Hollywood Road one day, and either you or Ned, he lives up on Mills, upper Mills…

SL: Van Dotson.

TM: Van, Van Dotson, yeah. He was talking about why it was called Hollywood Road.

SL: They were going to develop all that at one time up Hollywood Road. They were going to build a lake and develop all that land in there.

TM: Didn't they start building some sort of…?

PL: There was a racetrack.

SL: They built a racetrack over there.

TM: This is right behind the house? Behind the woods there?

SL: But it all, the crash of the '20s got that.

TM: So, this was in the '20s.

SL: It had them beat. I think all that development went by the wayside, which I'm glad now.

TM: Weren't they putting some sort of theme park or something there?

SL: There's an old trash dump up there.

TM: Shall we stop for today?

[END OF INTERVIEW]